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THE HON. DR. T. S. S. RAJAN:—" (a) Two hundred and eighty.

" (b) & (c) Government have ascertained that no charitable institution is prepared to house and care for these patients except the Roman Catholic Mission, which is prepared to house the patients discharged from the Leper Hospital, Kumbakonam, on payment of grant by the Government for their maintenance.

" (d) The matter will be considered."

MR. J. A. SALDANHA:—" May I enquire how many persons from Tirumani were thrown out? The figures given apply to all the places; I want figures for the Tirumani settlement separately."

THE HON. DR. T. S. S. RAJAN:—" This is for the whole Province, Sir. For the whole Province, the number is 280."

MR. J. A. SALDANHA:—" What is the number in the case of the Tirumani settlement alone?"

THE HON. DR. T. S. S. RAJAN:—" If the hon. Member will please put a separate question to that effect with due notice, I shall answer it."

Dumping of Ceylon coconuts in the Presidency.

* 21 *Q.*—SRI RAO BAHADUR M. RAMAN: Will the Hon. the Minister for Industries and Labour be pleased to state whether the Government contemplate taking any measures to stop or reduce the dumping of Ceylon coconuts into this Province and particularly into Malabar?

THE HON. SRI V. V. GIRI:—" The matter is under correspondence with the Government of India."

SRI T. C. SRINIVASA AYYANGAR:—" Will the Hon. Minister be pleased to state what is the extent of the interest in coconut plantations which the South Indians possess in Ceylon, and its value?"

THE HON. SRI V. V. GIRI:—" If the hon. Member puts another question separately, I shall answer."

Alleged change of school text-books by the President, Tanjore District Board, before the prescribed period.

* 22 *Q.*—SRI RAO BAHADUR N. R. SAMIAPPA MUDALIYAR: Will the Hon. the Minister for Education be pleased to state—

(a) whether it is a fact that the President of the Tanjore District Board changed text-books prescribed for board high schools in June 1939 and circularized the headmasters to adopt

the new books before the expiry of the five years' period fixed by the Government;

(*b*) if so, what the reasons adduced are for this change, whether the headmasters were consulted about the necessity for this change and whether the approval of the District Educational Officer was obtained before issuing the circular as required by the rules; and

(*c*) when the text-books were prescribed last?

THE HON. SRI C. J. VARKEY:—" (*a*) *to* (*c*) The Government have no information of the change of books referred to. The assumption that a change of text-books within five years of their introduction is not permissible is not correct. The existing rules are to the effect that there should normally be no change of books within two years of their introduction."

Alleged theft of cash from Omalur Police station, Salem district, and steps taken to detect the culprit.

*23 *Q.*—SRI RAO BAHADUR N. R. SAMIAPPA MUDALIYAR: Will the Hon. the Prime Minister be pleased to state—

(*a*) whether it is a fact that a sum of Rs. 1,500 was stolen from the Omalur Police station, Salem district;

(*b*) if so, when and under what circumstances;

(*c*) what action has been taken for detecting the theft; and

(*d*) what are the names of the Sub-Inspector and Circle Inspector who were in that station when the amount was stolen and whether they are still in that station?

THE HON. SRI C. RAJAGOPALACHARIAR:—" (*a*) *to* (*c*) The Sub-Inspector of the Omalur Police station cashed the pay cheque of Omalur Circle at 4-30 p.m. on the 7th July 1939. He was in the station till 8 p.m. disbursing cash and had disbursed about Rs. 780–12–5. He placed the rest of the money along with the permanent advance of the station in the cash chest in the station-house officer's room and, after locking the room, proceeded to an adjoining village on duty. During the night, the room was broken open and the cash chest with Rs. 1,158–8–7 was stolen. The case is under investigation.

" (*d*) The report of the Inspector-General of Police shows that everything possible is being done for the detection of the crime as well as the punishment of officials guilty of any neglect. The Government do not propose to start a new precedent of naming officials in the manner suggested. As